



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Ben Stevens
Current Version: HCS CSSB 260 (TRA)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 260

Short Title: Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Summary:

- Establishes Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) under state statute when required for participation in a federal transportation program. A metropolitan area is an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 persons.
- Establishes the composition of the policy board of an MPO for a metropolitan area with a population greater than 200,000 persons to consist of at least seven voting members. Two of the voting members shall be members of the public who live in Anchorage, one appointed by the Anchorage Assembly and one by the governor. The two non-voting members shall be legislators from the Anchorage area.
- Gives the Governor the ability to approve a Transportation Improvement Plan prepared by a policy board of an MPO that is organized in accordance with the applicable provisions of this legislation.

Benefits:

- Improve the transportation planning process for Anchorage and encourage public involvement.
- Improve the coordination and communication between the municipality, the state administration and the residents of Anchorage, to address the transportation needs of Anchorage.
- Increase the representation of Anchorage residents on the Anchorage MPO policy board and improve its' accountability.

Background:

- Alaska currently has two federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organizations required for participation in a federal transportation program: the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation system (FMATS) and the Anchorage Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS). The policy board provisions of this legislation apply only to AMATS.
- The AMATS policy committee currently consists of five members: the Mayor of Anchorage, two members of the Anchorage Assembly, and representatives from both the State Departments of Transportation and Environmental Conservation.
- Federal regulations do not preclude the participation of state legislators on the AMATS policy board.
- The AMATS policy board makes the management and funding decisions for state and city roads within the boundaries of the Anchorage metropolitan area.